

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

САЙХАН ШИНЭЛЭЭРЭЙ!



The Consular Section congratulates you with the Lunar New Year and wishes you and your families health, happiness and prosperity!



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Inside this issue:

New CRBA Application Procedure	1
Taxes for Foreigners Increased	2
Warning about Malicious Emails in Diversity Visa	2
Tsagaan Sar Visit to Verbist	2
Tsagaan Sar, the Lunar New Year	3
Tax Information	4
Smart Traveler Enrollment Program	4
A Message to American Communities and Organizations in Mongolia	5
Travel Warnings and Alerts	5
Upcoming Holidays	5
Embassy Contact Information	5

NEW CRBA APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The Department of State is pleased to announce the introduction of a redesigned Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA, or Form FS-240). The redesigned CRBA, which is an official record confirming that a child born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent or parents acquired U.S. Citizenship at birth and serves as proof of citizenship, has been updated with a variety of state-of-the-art security features to help prevent fraud and identity theft.

The overseas posts will still document the citizenship of children born overseas to U.S.-citizen parents, but the CRBAs will be printed at our passport agencies in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and New Orleans, Louisiana, using the information provided by overseas posts. By centralizing production and eliminating the distribution of controlled blank stock throughout the world, we will help ensure uniform quality and lessen the possibility of fraud.

In order to upgrade our systems for this change, the U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar has suspended CRBA adjudication until the system is ready to be implemented worldwide. We will send out a notice when the service is resumed and post it on our website.

If you have urgent travel needs, please contact us by **email** to discuss your situation. We are sorry for the inconvenience it may cause you.

The Office of immigration, Naturalization and Foreign Citizens (OINFC) has increased some taxes imposed on foreigners from January 1, 2011

Changes include price increases for 30 kinds of services. To get residence permission for official and personal purposes, a foreigner must now pay 60,000 tg, for visa permission-6,000, for extending a visa by seven days-27,500, for one time entry and exit-entry visa -50,000, for two times entry and exit-entry visa -72,500, for multiple visa for six months-110,000, for multiple visa for six months/ one year - 215,000.

Other changes include 55,000 tg for decision of requests to resume citizenship, to leave citizenship, or to acquire citizenship, and 12,000 tg for receiving/extending a pass ticket to travel abroad for stateless persons.

* Courtesy RSO, Tim Feeney



Warning about Malicious Emails on Diversity Visa

During the past couple of weeks we have received numerous emails from Mongolian citizens with the request to verify if they had won the Diversity Visa Lottery.

The Department of State wants to emphasize that the Bureau of Consular Affairs never provides notification of DV selection via e-mail. For DV-2012, notification of selection will only be made through Entry Status Check on the E-DV website <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov>

If you know someone who has received such a malicious email, please tell them not to believe any spam e-mail sent by criminal operators who seek to defraud individuals of their money.

We are always eager to answer any questions the recipients of the spam emails may have.

Tsagaan Sar Visit to Verbist

It has become a good tradition that the Consular Section visits Verbist before Tsagaan Sar holiday, and this year was no exception. It was also a great chance to introduce our new Consul to Verbist kids and staff.

We were very lucky to see all the kids this time, as our visit fell on their school break. 48 children were divided into two groups by their age. While the Consul and several Consular staff members played games and practiced English with the older kids upstairs, the Vice-Consul and some of us played with the smaller kids, made puzzles and read books with them, and even got our hair braided! The smaller kids showed us a short but very cute performance that we all appreciated.

After playing, it was presents time! The kids loved their chocolates, sweets and books.

We will be having a Verbist Fundraising Event open for public in near future with lots of fun and great cause to contribute to!

TSAGAAN SAR, THE LUNAR NEW YEAR

Tsagaan Sar, or White Month, is one of Mongolia's two major and long-awaited holidays, the other being Naadam in July. For Mongols, Tsagaan Sar is not only an ancient holiday marking the end of winter and the beginning of a new year's cycle, but is also a time for unification and reinforcing social bonds.

Preparations for the festive start well ahead of time. Several families usually gather in the eldest man's gher, where the holiday will take place.

Bituun - last dinner of the outgoing year. *Bituun* takes place on the last day of the lunar month. Beforehand, all the business of the past year must be wrapped up; debts paid and good relationships restored.

In daily life Mongols frequently exchange gifts. For Mongols a gift expresses feelings rather than words. The price of the gift is not important, for it expresses respect, sympathy, friendliness and wishes for health. Visitors may arrive with a gift, especially when visiting a family with children or old men. Candy for children, some milk or dairy products for elders are enough. If unprepared for a visit, it is all right to give little money to children to buy candies.



Taboos of Tsagaan Sar

Do not wear a black deel.

Do not formally greet your husband or wife.

Do not get a haircut.

Do not wash or mend old clothes.

Do not borrow anything from another ger.

Don't call a man by his nickname, argue, hunt or kill cattle.

Don't eat before the host allows it.

Don't get drunk.

Don't wear a knife or weapon.

Don't stay the night in another ger.

TAX INFORMATION

Income tax season is fast approaching. We recommend that you obtain your tax forms online at <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>.

Please note that all U.S. citizens or resident aliens must report and pay federal tax on their worldwide income, even if they live abroad. For your convenience, attached is an electronic copy of the [Publication 4732](#) and it is also available on the internet at <http://www.irs.gov>

For more information on U.S. taxes, please consult the list of websites and telephone numbers below to help find the forms and answers you need.

STATE TAX RETURNS: For individual state income tax information, visit <http://www.taxadmin.org/>.

The Embassy does not have state tax forms or state tax information

Main IRS website: www.irs.gov

Tax guidance for U.S. citizens abroad: <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=97324,00.html>

Tax guidance for persons in the military: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/military/index.html>

Electronic payment website: <http://www.eftps.gov/>

Refund information: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96596,00.html?portlet=4>

Phone Services:

Individuals	1-800-829-1040
Businesses	1-800-829-4933
Customer Service Phone Number	1-215-516-2000
Refund Inquiries	1-800-829-4477
TeleTax	1-800-829-4477
ITINs after 6 weeks	1-800-829-1040
Exempt Organization Help Desk	1-877-829-5500
E-Services Help Desk	1-512-416-7750

Please note that calling the above 1-800 U.S. numbers from an overseas location will usually not be toll-free.

SMART TRAVELER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (STEP)

Stay Informed. Sign up for our free [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (formerly known as "Travel Registration" or "Registration with Embassies") to receive the latest travel updates and information! You only need to sign up once, and then you can add and delete trips from your account based on your current travel plans!

Stay Connected. By connecting with us on the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#), we will be able to assist you better in the case of an emergency, such as if you lose your passport or it is stolen while you are abroad. We also assist U.S. citizens in other emergencies, such as in natural disasters.

Stay Safe. We believe that a well-informed traveler is a safer traveler. Our consular officers around the world compile [country-specific information](#), [travel alerts](#), [travel warnings](#), fact sheets and warden messages to provide you with timely and accurate travel information about every country where you may travel. Stay informed by connecting with us via our [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) so you can have safe and enjoyable travels!



A Message to American Communities and Organizations in Mongolia

The Embassy encourages all business groups, churches, private companies, and other organizations with a nucleus of American citizens to make sure that the Embassy has a point of contact for your group.

To receive Embassy announcements and advisories via e-mail, please join the Embassy Newslist. Your membership in the Embassy Newslist will assure you of receiving Embassy issued announcements and advisories in a timely manner. Your private information will be kept strictly confidential.

Upcoming Holidays

February 3, 4 – Tsagaan Sar
February 21 – President's Day

Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services
 Embassy of the United States
 11th Micro District
 Big Ring Road
 Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia
 Tel: 976-11329-095
 Fax: 976-11320-776
 After-hours
 or emergency number: 9911-4168
 E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov
 - or -
 American Embassy
 Ulaanbaatar
 4410 Ulaan Baatar Place
 Washington, DC,
 20521



Send an email to the Embassy at UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov giving the name of your organization, a point of contact (POC), email address, phone number, and any other contact information. It is not necessary that your POC be an American citizen. The Embassy will use this information to contact your group in an emergency. Please type "Group Contact Info" on the subject line of your email.

Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Egypt](#) 01/30/2011
[Haiti](#) 01/20/2011
[Tunisia](#) 01/16/2011
[Central African Republic](#) 01/14/2011
[Niger](#) 01/12/2011
[Nepal](#) 01/12/2011
[Sudan](#) 01/07/2011
[Kenya](#) 12/28/2010
[Somalia](#) 12/27/2010
[Saudi Arabia](#) 12/23/2010

[Uganda](#) 01/24/2011
[South Pacific Cyclone Season](#) 12/23/2010

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

WONDERING IF THE FLIGHT IS ON TIME?

This website has virtually every flight in the world and is updated regularly. It has been used for MIAT and Korean Air flights and it has been accurate every time.

<http://www.flightstats.com/>

